

Something Critical

The Theme of Easter or Christianity?

2/11/2023

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At a recent Sunday Morning Easter service, I heard someone say: *"I sure am glad we set aside one Sunday a year to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus."* In fact, it was the pastor of the church I was attending.

Is it possible that the Christian Church has magnified the death of Jesus to such an extent that there has been only a marginal emphasis on His resurrection? As Paul notes in 1 Corinthians 15, if the death of Jesus is not accompanied by parallel emphasis on His resurrection, then several consequences exist: Christians are false witnesses; faith is vain; Christians are still in their sins.

It is not uncommon to hear preachers preach and books devoted to the subject of the death of Christ. However, how many sermons have you heard and books have you read which direct dynamic emphasis and explanation to the fact and meaning of His resurrection?

Even though the purpose and theme of every Sunday should be the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, it is the highlighted theme of the time we call Easter. In fact, the day of collective worship was changed from the Jewish Sabbath on Saturday to the Christian Celebration on Sunday because of His resurrection on this first day of the week. It was, therefore, another way by which Christianity was different from Judaism or the religion of the Jews. **So, do we err greatly by making the resurrection the theme of Easter but not every Sunday – and, in fact, every day?**

The New Testament is filled with numerous references to this resurrection of Jesus. The following pages illustrate or pinpoint the specific passages where those references are located. The specific *terms* in this regard are noted below in connection with the *passages*.

"Rise/Rise Again/Raise Up/Raised/Raised Up/Raised Again/Rose/Rose Again/Risen"

Scripture

Mt. 20:19: "And shall deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify; and the third day He shall **rise again**."

Mt. 27:63: "Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while He was yet alive, after three days I will **rise again**."

Mk. 8:31: "And He began to teach them that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days **rise again**."

Mark 9:31: "For He taught His disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill Him; and after He is killed, He shall **rise** the third day."

Mark 10:34: "And they shall mock Him, and shall scourge Him, and shall spit upon Him, and shall kill Him; and the third day He shall **rise again**."

Lk. 18:33: "And they shall scourge and put Him to death, and the third day He shall **rise again**."

Lk. 24:7: "Saying, the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and the third day **rise again**."

Lk. 24: 46: "And said unto them, thus it is written and thus it behooved Christ to suffer and to **rise** from the dead the third day."

Jn. 11:24: "Martha said unto Him, I know he shall **rise again** in the resurrection at the last day."

Jn. 20:9: "For as yet they knew not the Scripture that He must **rise again** from the dead."

Mt. 16:21: "From that time forth Jesus began to show unto His disciples how that He must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and be **raised again** the third day."

Mt. 17:23: "And they shall kill Him, and the third day He shall be **raised again**."

Lk. 9:22: "Saying, the Son of man must suffer many things and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be slain, and be **raised again** the third day."

Ac. 2:24: "Whom God has **raised up**, having loosed the pain of death, because it was not possible that He should be holden of it."

Ac. 2:32: "This Jesus has God **raised up**, whereof we all are witnesses."

Ac. 3:15: "And killed the Prince of life, Whom God has **raised** from the dead, whereof we are witnesses."

Ac. 3:26: "Unto you first, God, having **raised up** His Son Jesus, sent Him to bless you in turning away every one of you from his iniquities."

Ac. 4:10: "Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Whom ye crucified, Whom God **raised** from the dead, even by Him does this man stand here before you whole."

Ac. 5:30: "The God of our fathers **raised up** Jesus Whom ye slew and hanged on a tree."

Ac. 10:40: "Him God **raised up** the third day, and showed Him openly."

Ac. 13:30: "But God **raised** Him from the dead."

Ac. 13:33: "God has fulfilled the same unto us their children in that He has **raised up** Jesus again."

Ac. 13: 34: "And as concerning Him He **raised up** from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David."

Ac. 13: 37: "But He Whom God **raised again** saw no corruption."

Ac. 17:31: "Because God has appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man Whom He has ordained; He has given assurance unto all in that He has **raised** Him from the dead."

Ro. 4:24: "But also for us to whom it shall be imputed if we believe on Him that **raised up** Jesus our Lord from the dead."

Ro. 4:25: "Who was delivered for our offences and was **raised again** for our justification."

Ro. 6:4: "Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism unto death that like as Christ was **raised up** from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Ro. 6:9: "Know that Christ being **raised** from the dead dies no more; death has no more dominion over Him."

Ro. 7:4: "Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ that ye should be married to another: to Him Who is **raised** from the dead that we should bring forth fruit unto God."

Ro. 8:11: "But if the Spirit of Him that **raised up** Christ from the dead dwells in you, He Who **raised up** Christ from the dead shall also make alive your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwells in you."

Ro. 8:34: "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather Who is **risen again**, Who is even at the right hand of God Who also makes intercession for us."

Ro. 10:9: "That if you should confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and shall believe in your heart that God has **raised** Him from the dead, you shall be saved."

1 Co. 6:14: "And God has both **raised up** the Lord and will also **raise up** us also by His own power."

1 Co. 15:4: "And that He was buried, and that He **rose again** the third day according to the Scriptures."

1 Co. 15:12: "Now if Christ be preached that He **rose** from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?"

1 Co. 15:15: "Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God because we have testified of God that He **raised up** Christ, Whom He **raised up** not if so be that the dead **rise** not."

1 Co. 15:17: "And if Christ be not **raised**, your faith is vain, ye are yet in your sins."

1 Co. 15:20: "But now is Christ **risen** from the dead and become the firstfruits of those who slept."

2 Co. 1:9: "But we had the sentence of death in ourselves that we should not trust in ourselves but in God Who **raiseth** the dead."

2 Co. 4:14: "Knowing that He Who **raised up** the Lord Jesus shall **raise up** us also by Jesus and shall present us with you."

2 Cor. 5:15: "And that He died for all that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves but unto Him Who died for them and **rose again**."

Ga. 1:1: "Paul, an apostle – not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father Who **raised** Him from the dead."

Ep.1:20: "Which He wrought in Christ when He **raised** Him from the dead and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenlies."

Ep.2:6: "And has **raised up** us together and made us sit together in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus."

Co. 2:12: "Buried with Him in baptism, where in also ye are **risen** with Him through the faith of the operation of God Who has **raised** Him from the dead."

1 Th. 1:10: "And to wait for His Son from heaven, Whom He **raised** from the dead, Jesus, Who delivered us from the wrath to come."

2 Ti. 2:8: "Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was **raised** from the dead according to my gospel."

1 Pt. 1:21: "Who by Him do believe in God Who **raised** Him from the dead and gave Him glory that your faith and hope might be in God."

Ro. 1:4 states that Christ Jesus was "declared/designated [by God = v. 1] the Son of God with power in accordance with the Holy Spirit by the **resurrection** from the dead" Cp. 8:11.

Ro. 4:25: Jesus was "delivered up on account of our transgressions and was **raised up** for the sake of our justification/to give us right standing with God [Williams]"

6:4: "as Christ was **raised** from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life"

7:4: "to Him Who was **raised** from the dead that we might bear fruit for God"

8:11: "the Spirit of Him Who raised Christ Jesus from the dead"

10:9: "and shall believe in your heart that God has **raised** Him from the dead, you shall be saved"

1 Co. 15:17: "if Christ has not been **raised** from the dead, your faith is worthless, you are still in your sins"

Ga. 1:1: "God the Father Who **raised** Him from the dead"

Ep. 1:20: God "**raised** Him from the dead and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenlies"

2:6: "And **raised** us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenlies"

Co. 2:12: "having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also **raised up** with Him through faith in the working of God Who **raised** Him from the dead"

1 Th. 1:10: "to wait for His Son from heaven, Whom He **raised** from the dead, Jesus Who delivers us from the wrath to come"

1 Pt. 1:21: "Who through Him are believers in God Who **raised** Him from the dead and gave Him glory so that your faith and hope are in God"

Why didn't the early Christians choose Friday, the day of crucifixion, as the time for collective worship? If the crucifixion was the God's main point, why don't Christians worship on Friday? Why did they choose Sunday? **Because of the resurrection!!!!** Why has the Church continued choosing Sunday as the day for collective worship? **Because of the resurrection!!!!** Yet churches continue to create and place a cross on their buildings and elsewhere as a symbol rather than an empty tomb. ***Something critical seems to be out of focus!!!!***